

Application no.: 09/834,700

Docket no.: SEQ-2035-UT

AMENDMENT**In the Claims**

Please cancel claims 6-8, 11, 13-18, 44, 47-53, 69-71 and 75 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 45 and 46 and add new claims 76-83 as provided below in the complete listing of the claims.

1. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, comprising a sequence of nucleotides that encodes a polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO. 2, except that the Ile residue at position 646 of SEQ ID NO: 2 is replaced with Val, Leu or Phe.

2. (Original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the residue at position 646 of SEQ ID NO: 2 is Val.

3. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, comprising the sequence of nucleotides set forth as position 138 to position 2126 of SEQ ID NO: 1, except that the nucleotide at position 2073 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is replaced with a nucleotide selected from the group consisting of G, T and C.

4. (Original) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 3, wherein the nucleotide at position 2073 of SEQ ID NO: 1 is G.

5. (Original) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, comprising nucleotides from position 138 to position 2126 of SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claims 6-18 (cancelled).

19. (Original) A nucleic acid vector, comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

20. (Original) A cell containing the nucleic acid vector of claim 19.

Claims 21-44 (cancelled).

45. (Currently amended) A cell, which comprises a heterologous nucleic acid that ~~The cell of claim 44, wherein heterologous nucleic acid~~ encodes the sequence of amino acids set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4.

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46. (Currently amended) The cell of claim 45 [44], wherein the nucleic acid comprises the sequence of nucleotides set forth from position 138 to position 2126 of SEQ. ID. NO: 3.

Claims 47-75 (cancelled).

76. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which consists essentially of the sequence of nucleotides.

77. (New) A nucleic acid vector, which comprises the nucleic acid molecule of claim 76.

78. (New) A cell containing the nucleic acid vector of claim 77.

79. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which consists of the sequence of nucleotides.

80. (New) A nucleic acid vector, which comprises the nucleic acid molecule of claim 79.

81. (New) A cell containing the nucleic acid vector of claim 79.

82. (New) A nucleic acid primer, which comprises a sequence of nucleotides that hybridizes adjacent to position 2073 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

83. (New) The nucleic acid primer of claim 76, which is extended by a nucleotide that specifically base pairs with the nucleotide at position 2073 of SEQ ID NO: 1.